A BITTERSWEET LIFE
WORRIES

THAT SPRING, AGE 23.
THERE WAS ONE WORRY
THAT CONSTANTLY
TORMENTED ME.

IT WAS IN MY FIRST
SEMESTER OF SENIOR
YEAR AT UNIVERSITY,
AS HIRING NOTICES STARTED
APPEARING AND EVERYONE
STARTED PAYING ATTENTION
TO THEIR TOEFL SCORE.

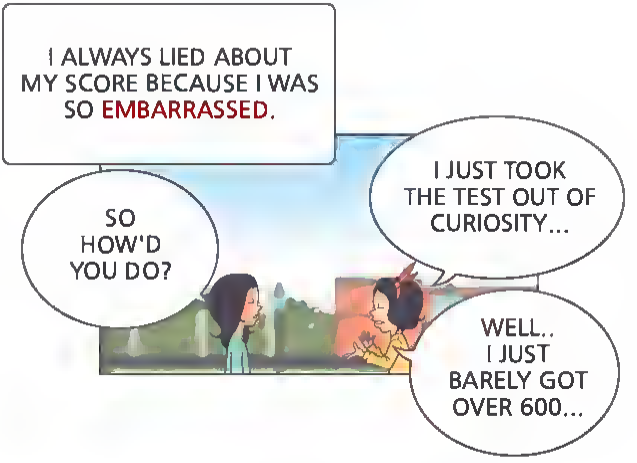
THE PROBLEM WAS THAT ONLY MY TOEFL SCORE WAS IN THE 400S...

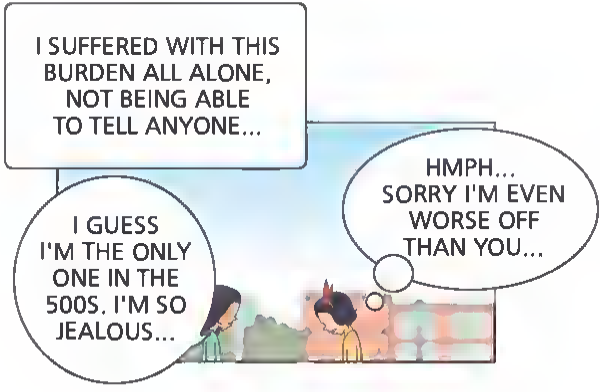
STUDY? OF COURSE I STUDIED BEFORE TAKING THE TEST! I MEAN, COME ON!!!!

EVERYONE AROUND ME HAD SCORES IN THE 600S... SOME PEOPLE EVEN HAD OVER 800. IT SEEMED LIKE I WAS THE ONLY ONE LIKE THIS.

HEY NANI, WHAT'S YOUR SCORE?

AGH! UH.. WELL.. I... UH...


I ALWAYS LIED ABOUT MY SCORE BECAUSE I WAS SO EMBARRASSED.
SO HOW'D YOU DO?
I JUST TOOK THE TEST OUT OF CURIOSITY...
WELL.. I JUST BARELY GOT OVER 600...


I SUFFERED WITH THIS BURDEN ALL ALONE, NOT BEING ABLE TO TELL ANYONE...
I GUESS I'M THE ONLY ONE IN THE 500S. I'M SO JEALOUS...
HMPH... SORRY I'M EVEN WORSE OFF THAN YOU...

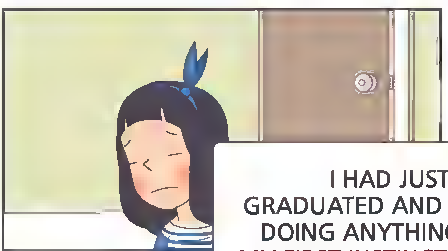
AAHH~!!! WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE LIKE THIS!!!!

AT THE TIME, MY CONSTANTLY LOW TOEFL SCORE WAS MY GREATEST WORRY.

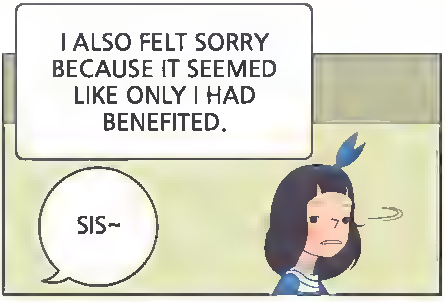
BUT DURING THE SUMMER WHEN I WAS 24, I COULDN'T BE WORRIED ABOUT SUCH PETTY THINGS LIKE MY TOEFL SCORE.

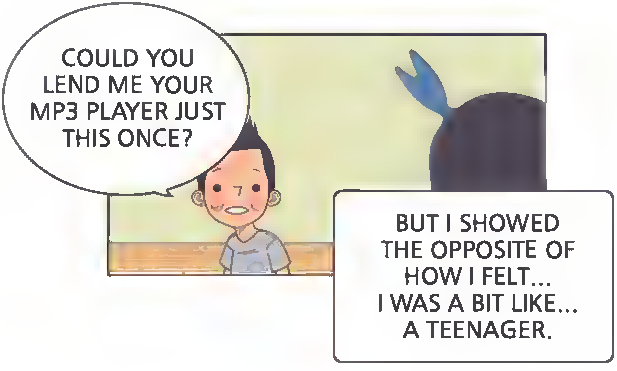
AT THE TIME, MY FAMILY WAS HAVING A HARD TIME GETTING BY,

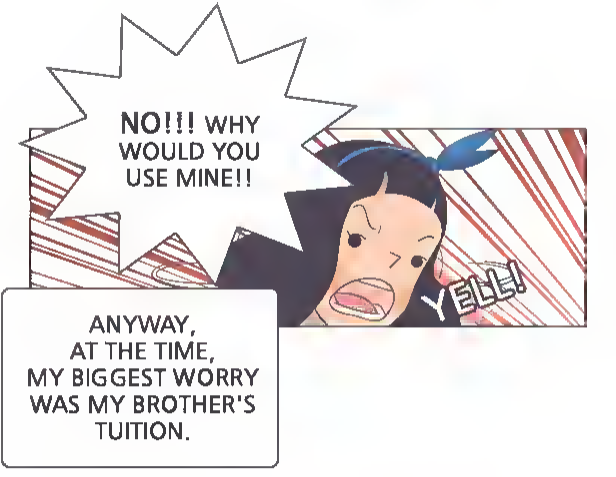
AND MY MOM WAS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT HOW TO PAY MY BROTHER'S TUITION FOR NEXT SEMESTER.



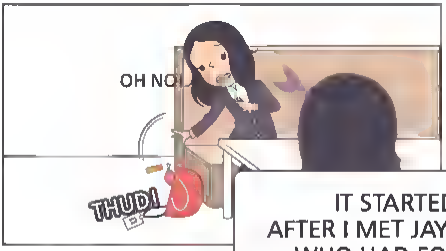
I HAD JUST GRADUATED AND WASN'T DOING ANYTHING, BUT MY FIRST INSTINCT WAS TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP.


I ALSO FELT SORRY BECAUSE IT SEEMED LIKE ONLY I HAD BENEFITED.
SIS~

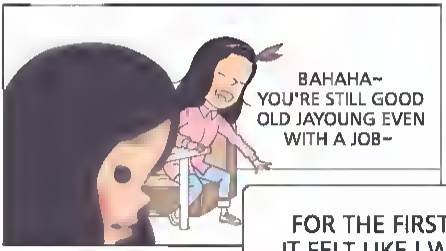

COULD YOU LEND ME YOUR MP3 PLAYER JUST THIS ONCE?
BUT I SHOWED THE OPPOSITE OF HOW I FELT... I WAS A BIT LIKE... A TEENAGER.



BUT IN THE FALL WHEN I WAS 25,
THERE WAS A REALLY
BIG NEW WORRY.
IT WAS SORT OF ABOUT MYSELF.

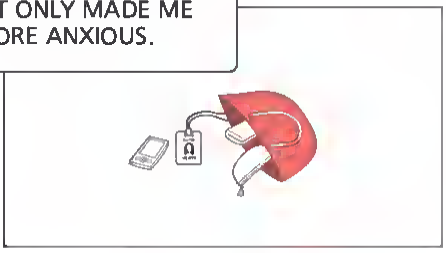


IT STARTED AFTER I MET JAYOUNG, WHO HAD FOUND A JOB RIGHT AFTER GRADUATION.

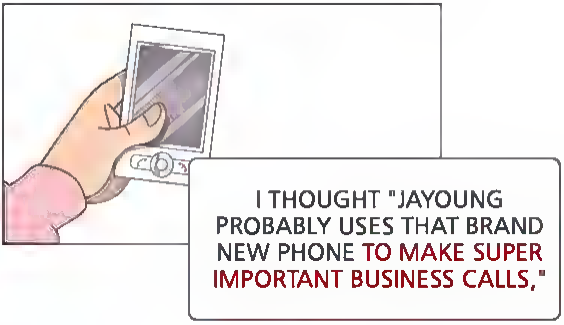


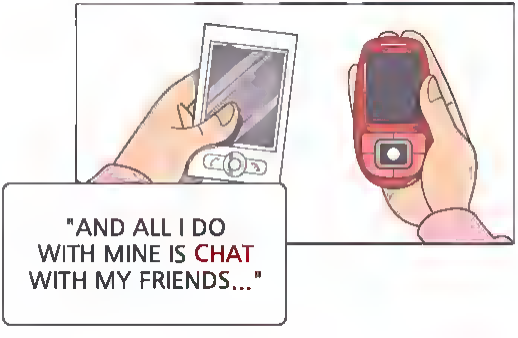
FOR THE FIRST TIME, IT FELT LIKE I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO HADN'T GOT A JOB.

I WAS ESPECIALLY JEALOUS WHEN I SAW JAYOUNG'S EMPLOYEE CARD, AND IT ONLY MADE ME MORE ANXIOUS.



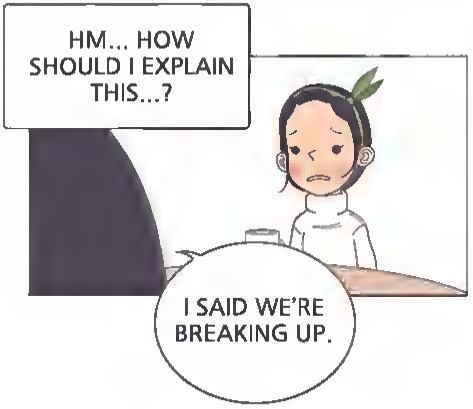
I REALIZED THAT I HAD NORMALLY TRIED TO AVOID EVEN THINKING ABOUT THIS KIND OF THING.


I THOUGHT "JAYOUNG PROBABLY USES THAT BRAND NEW PHONE TO MAKE SUPER IMPORTANT BUSINESS CALLS,"

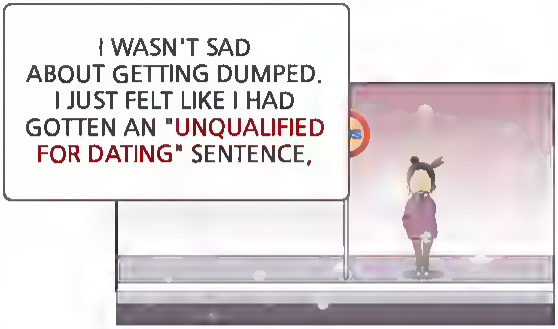

"AND ALL I DO WITH MINE IS CHAT WITH MY FRIENDS..."

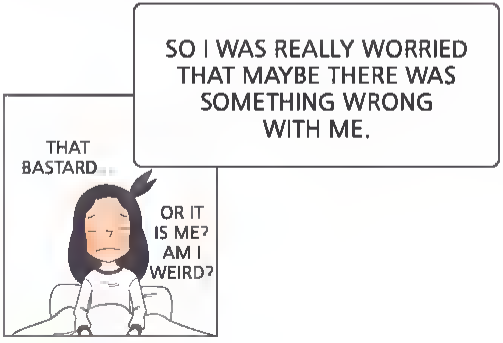
AT THE TIME,
IT REALLY SEEMED
LIKE ALL OF MY WORRIES
WOULD BE GONE
FOREVER IF I COULD
JUST GET A JOB.

BUT! DURING
WINTER WHEN I WAS 26,
I HAD SOMETHING TO
REALLY WORRY ABOUT.
ALL OF THAT OTHER STUFF WAS
CHILD'S PLAY IN COMPARISON~

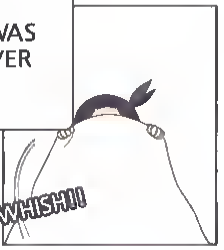

HM... HOW SHOULD I EXPLAIN THIS...?
I SAID WE'RE BREAKING UP.

I'M LEAVING.
YOU SURE ARE QUICK... NO, IT'S NOT HARD TO TALK ABOUT.


I WASN'T SAD ABOUT GETTING DUMPED. I JUST FELT LIKE I HAD GOTTEN AN "UNQUALIFIED FOR DATING" SENTENCE,

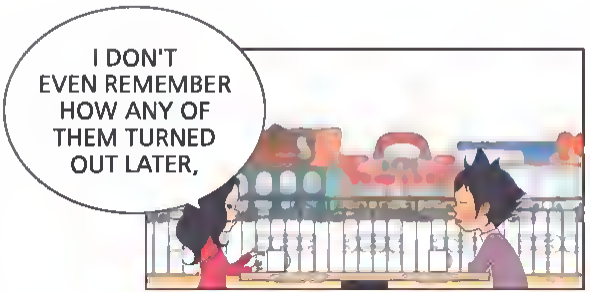

SO I WAS REALLY WORRIED THAT MAYBE THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME.
THAT BASTARD...
OR IT IS ME? AM I WEIRD?

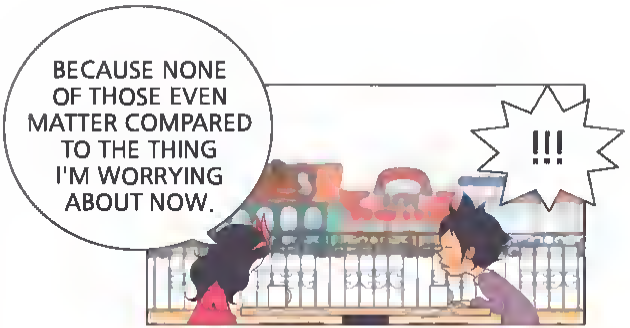
DATING IS REALLY THE PROBLEM I COULDN'T SOLVE BY MYSELF, SO ALL I COULD DO WAS PULL MY BLANKET OVER MY HEAD...



BUT YOU KNOW...

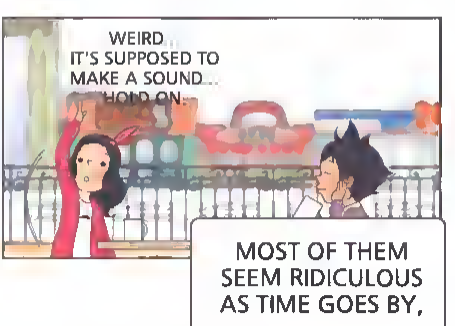
I HOPE IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE BRAGGING
BUT I DIDN'T SOLVE A SINGLE ONE OF THOSE PROBLEMS.


I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER HOW ANY OF THEM TURNED OUT LATER,


BECAUSE NONE OF THOSE EVEN MATTER COMPARED TO THE THING I'M WORRYING ABOUT NOW.
!!!

TRY TWISTING YOUR ARM LIKE THIS~ IT DOESN'T HURT FOR YOU, RIGHT?! BUT FOR ME...
WHISH~
WHISH~
WHISH~

AH... WAIT...
NOW IT'S OKAY AGAIN...
THERE SHOULD BE A
POPPING SOUND...
NANI'S WORRIES
ARE LIKE TRENDS-


WEIRD...
IT'S SUPPOSED TO
MAKE A SOUND...
HOLD ON...
MOST OF THEM
SEEM RIDICULOUS
AS TIME GOES BY,

AND THEY JUST SEEM TO VANISH ON THEIR OWN.

LINE Webtoon